

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
November 28, 2012
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Merri Dee
Nabi Fakroddin
Marylee V. Freeman
Rozanne Ronen
David J. Walsh
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

None

Staff

Keith N. Chambers
Michael J. Evans
Reva Bauch
LaNade Bridges

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Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine Welninski
Sheida Ahmadzadeh (Coles Fellow)
Stephanie Northrop (Coles Fellow)
Adam Rayford (Coles Fellow)

Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On November 28, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting.

II. Consideration of Minutes

October 24, 2012

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2012, meeting as amended, item III, Chairman's report line one. Replace "legislative committee" with "legislative liaison." Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Merri Dee. Commissioner Dee gave a brief introduction of herself.

Chairman Castro gave a brief report regarding the expiration of the Commissioner's terms. Chairman Castro explained to the Commissioners that if the Governor does not reappoint a Commissioner after 60 days of the expiration of the Commissioner's term the Commissioner ceases to be a Commissioner by operation of law.

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Chairman Castro further advised the Commission that the Commission still has one vacancy.

IV. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Mr. Chambers gave a brief update on the Commission's Annual Report. Mr. Chambers will have a first draft ready for the Commission's next *en banc* meeting. Mr. Chambers further advised the Commission that the Commissioners' profiles still need further editing.

Mr. Chambers discussed the Commission's legislative budget advocacy proposal. Mr. Chambers reviewed the grid that he had previously distributed to the Commissioners. Mr. Chambers requested feedback from the Commissioners in light of the recent elections and the possible changes in legislative districts. Mr. Chambers advised the Commissioners to report any inaccuracies to his office.

Mr. Chambers distributed "Talking Points" of information to the Commissioners. The Talking Points are issues that the Commissioners may use in their outreach to their legislative contacts.

A discussion ensued as to when it would be a good time to start the legislative outreach. Chairman Castro stated the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") has no objections of early budget advocacy and that the Commissioners may start as soon as possible.

The Commission also discussed going to the Capital building in Springfield in January 2013 to talk to legislators.

Finally, Mr. Chambers announced that Administrative Law Judge David Brent was retiring at the end of November, and that all were invited to a farewell party hosted by Commission staff.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Dr. Ewa reported that OMB will send the Commission final figures for the budget within the next two weeks.

Dr. Ewa advised the Commission that the Commission should revisit the issue of Federal grant money for Fair Housing matters because the number of Fair Housing cases that the Commission has processed has increased.

Dr. Ewa suggested that he can place the earmarked money for Fair housing as a line item in the Commission's budget. However, it was agreed by the Commission to hold off placing the money as a line item so that OMB cannot consider this money as funds that the Commission already has, which could possibly give an inaccurate picture of the Commission's available monies.

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Chairman Castro suggested that the Commission find out when the contract between Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) and the IDHR expires as to this earmarked money. The Chairman further suggested that the Commission should negotiate directly with HUD over the Fair Housing grant money.

General Counsel Gray at this point briefed the Commission on the ability of the Commission to seek grants or private gifts and bequests as provided by the Illinois Human Rights Act.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section’s statistics for the month of October 2012.

Judge Evans also announced that Administrative Law Judge David Brent was retiring as well as the passing of Judge Brent’s son and details on the memorial service, which all were welcome to attend.

D. Donyelle L. Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray issued general reminders to the Commissioners.

Ms. Gray thanked the fall Coles Fellows for their work with the Commission. Chairman Castro presented each Fellow with a plaque signed by the Governor.

Ms. Gray announced that the Commission’s Holiday party will be held after the conclusion of the Commission’s December *en banc* meeting on December 12, 2012.

Commissioner Ronen spoke briefly about the Holiday party and contributions Commissioners could make to the party.

V. New Business

There was no new business. However at this point the Chairman announced that the Better Government Association will be doing another story on the Commission. The Chairman advised that if staff or Commissioner receives a phone call from any reporter, the call should be referred to Mike Claffey. Commissioner Dee asked for Mr. Claffey’s telephone number, which Mr. Chamber said he would provide to her.

VI. Unfinished Business

None

VII. Executive Session

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None.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Donyelle L. Gray

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel